

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 10, 14, 20 and 22 are amended, and new claims 25 and 26 are added herein. As amended, claims 1, 10 and 22 are independent claims.

The applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication in the Action that claims 7-9, 13 and 16-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-6, 10-12, 14-15 and 20-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ogura (U.S. Patent No. 4,876,609). Claims 1, 5, 10, 14, 20 and 22 are amended herein to distinguish over the applied reference.

With regard to claims 1, 5, 10, 14 and 22, the Examiner points to Ogura as teaching a digital copier having facsimile transmission comprising: a detection unit detecting transition points in image data representing an image of a page having a width greater than the printing width of the facsimile machine; and an adjusting unit coupled to the detection unit having means for deciding whether the image data will be adjusted on the basis of the detecting transition points (column 7, lines 49-68; column 8, lines 1-24; column 11, lines to 15-30; Figure 10).

The text referenced by the Examiner in columns 7 and 8 of Ogura is a discussion two-sided copying, while the text referenced in column 11 involves selection of an appropriate magnification when transmitting facsimile images in order to accommodate the paper size available at the receiving terminal. Neither of these sections appears germane to the claimed invention.

Figure 10 of Ogura and the related text at column 15, lines 14-27, discloses, in the context of receiving facsimile images, determining whether the length of the received image is shorter than that the paper on which it is to be reproduced, basing the determination on the number of lines of the received image. Depending upon the relative lengths of the image and the paper, a decision is made whether to record the image at full-scale, record the image at 90 percent scale, or record it on two sheets of paper. Thus, Ogura is significantly different from the present intention in that, in Ogura, the determination as to whether to adjust the image data is made on the basis of the number of lines of the received image and not on the basis of the transition points in

the width direction of the image data, i.e. the determination in Ogura relates to the vertical direction and not to the horizontal direction.

Moreover, the present invention determines a valid image area exclusive of scanning margins by detecting transition points or margins in the width direction to avoid carrying out unnecessary image size reduction, where Ogura makes the determination based on the number of lines of the received image including scanning margins, and does not determined a valid image area exclusive scanning margins.

To more clearly distinguish the claimed invention over Ogura, claims 1 and 10 are amended to expressly indicate that the detection unit detects transition points in the width direction in the image data, and claims 20 and 22 are amended to expressly indicate that the detection unit detects margins in the width direction in the image. Claims 5 and 14 are amended to depend from claims 4 and 13, respectively, and to make it clear that the horizontal coordinates of the transition points are measured in the width direction, consistent with the clarifications made to their respective base claims. Claims 3 and 6 are also amended in a manner consistent with the other claims.

New claims 25 and 26, depending from claims 1 and 20 respectively, are a directed to another feature of the invention disclosed in the application, namely, I was that the detection unit detects leftmost and rightmost transition points in the width direction in the image data by detecting first and last transition points for each of scanning lines.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the applicant submits that claims 1-26, as amended, patentably distinguish over the applied art reference. Allowance of the claims, and passing of the application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

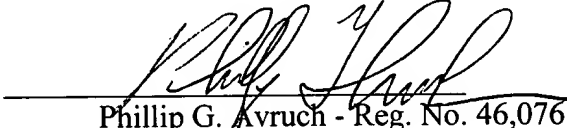
[Continued on next page]

Submitted herewith is payment in the amount of \$36 for two additional claims added by this Amendment. Should the payment be missing or insufficient in amount, kindly deduct any deficiency from our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise the undersigned according.

Respectfully submitted,

April 8, 2004

Date


Phillip G. Avruch - Reg. No. 46,076
RABIN & BERDO, P.C.
Customer No. 23995
(202) 371-8976 (telephone)
(202) 408-0924 (facsimile)
firm@champ.com (e-mail)

PGA:rw